AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Cancelled)**

2. **(Currently Amended)** A method of manufacturing a ~~product according to Claim 1, characterized in that~~ porous starch-based pigment or filler product comprising a stable foam, said method comprising:

a) air, or other gases, ~~at a low temperature, possibly at overpressure,~~ is dissolved at a low temperature into a water gel of starch, after which the raising of the temperature generates a gas/liquid phase separation, ~~i.e. bubbles are formed,~~ and the product is crosslinked to achieve **[[**a**]]** said stable foam, **[[**or**]]**

b) air is mixed into the starch gel to foam the gel and the foamed gel is cooled rapidly to ~~stabilize the foam, or~~ produce said stable foam;

c) a micro bubble emulsion is formed of the aqueous solutions of the starches and the organic solvents under thorough mixing and in the presence of surface-active agents and crosslinking reagents, or

d) a solid starch derivative is contacted with high-pressure carbon dioxide in conditions where the high-pressure carbon dioxide penetrates into the starch derivative, which swells because of the effect of the carbon dioxide, after which the pressure on the

starch derivative, which was swelled in the carbon dioxide, is lowered rapidly thereby producing a porous material following decompression;

wherein said stable foam contains foam bubbles and the average size of said bubbles is less than approximately 10 micrometres.

3. **(Currently Amended)** **[[A]]** The method according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that in alternative c above,~~ wherein in step c), the starch derivative is dissolved into water to a solution, the percentage of which is approximately 1-30 % by ~~weight, preferably approximately 5-20 % per weight, most suitably approximately 10-15 % per~~ weight.

4. **(Currently Amended)** **[[A]]** The method according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that,~~ wherein in order to increase the stability, 0.01-10 % per ~~weight, preferably approximately 0.1-5 % per~~ weight of a crosslinking agent, ~~such as glyoxal,~~ is added into the starch-bearing solution.

5. **(Currently Amended)** **[[A]]** The method according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that in alternative d,~~ wherein in step d), a solid starch ester or starch ether, with a degree of substitution in the range of 0.5-3.0 mol/mol~~, preferably at least 1.0,~~ is contacted with a material which comprises mainly carbon dioxide at an elevated pressure and temperature, after which the pressure of the material which was contacting the cellulose ester or cellulose ether and which comprises mainly carbon dioxide is reduced rapidly so that a microporous starch ester or starch ether is achieved after the reduction of the pressure.

6. **(Currently Amended)** **[[**A**]]** The method according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a starch ester or a starch ether is contacted with a material which comprises mainly carbon dioxide at a pressure of 100-310 bar and at a temperature of 50-100 ° C.

7. **(Currently Amended)** **[[**A**]]** The method according to Claim 5 or 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a starch ester or a starch ether is contacted with carbon dioxide to which small molecular alcohol or ester has been added.

8. **(Currently Amended)** **[[**A**]]** The method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carbon dioxide comprises 1-15 % per weight small molecular alcohol or ester.

9. **(Currently Amended)** **[[**A**]]** The method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pressure on the material contacting the starch ester or the starch ether and which comprises mainly carbon dioxide is reduced to an essentially lower pressure within 0.08-7 seconds.

10. **(Currently Amended)** **[[**A**]]** The method according to claim 5, ~~product or a method according to claim 1, characterized in that~~ wherein the starch-based material comprises starch ether~~, especially hydroxyalkyl starch,~~ or starch ester~~, such as starch alkenyl succinate~~.

11. **(Currently Amended)** **[[**A**]]** The ~~product or a~~ method according to Claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in order to modify the properties of the starch gels/starch foams, an

initial material is used which comprises hydroxyalkyl starch or starch alkenyl succinate.

12. **(Cancelled)**

13. **(New)** The method according to Claim 3, wherein the percentage of the starch derivative is 10-15 % per weight.

14. **(New)** The method according to Claim 4, wherein approximately 0.1-5 % per weight of a crosslinking agent is added into the starch-bearing solution.

15. **(New)** The method according to Claim 4 or 14, wherein glyoxal is the crosslinking agent.

16. **(New)** The method according to claim 10, wherein the starch-based material comprises hydroxyalkyl starch.

17. **(New)** The method according to claim 10, wherein the starch-based material comprises starch alkenyl succinate.